Course Overview and Goals / Обзор курса и цели
In this class students review the basic grammatical and syntactical structures of the Russian language and continue to improve their mastery of the language foundation while acquiring an active vocabulary of 500-700 new words. Students entering this course typically have Intermediate Low oral proficiency and Intermediate Low listening, reading, and writing skills. Upon completion of both parts of the course (RUSN 201 and 202), students typically demonstrate intermediate mid reading skills, and intermediate low/mid listening, speaking, and writing skills.

In short, this is a course teaching communication skills. You will learn how to
• communicate well and correctly in situations without significant complications
• read stylistically uncomplicated short stories, poems, and newspaper articles
• understand the main ideas and some details of radio and television programs, as well as documentary and feature films

Required Materials / Необходимые материалы
• Dolgova, Irina and Cynthia Martin. Russian Stage Two: Welcome Back! Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 2010. The set includes a textbook, two workbooks, two CDs and a DVD. All parts of the set are required for class. We will be using the same materials in the second part of this course (Spring 2011).

• Additional reading, viewing, and audio materials will be provided by the instructor.

• Russian-English / English-Russian Dictionary. We recommend to use the site http://lingvopro.abbyyonline.com/en ABBYY Lingvo.Pro or http://multitrans.ru МУЛЬТИТРАН.

Course Grade
The final grade for the course will be calculated by the following formula:
Class participation + attendance 10%
Homework assignments 10%
Film Project + Essays 10%
Quizzes 15%
Unit Tests (Written + Oral) 30%
Final Examination 20%
Russian Tea 5%

Grading follows the MLL Departmental Scoring Guide:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<td>A</td>
<td>93 - 100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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Course Policies

Attendance
Students are expected to attend all classes and arrive on time. Regular class attendance is essential for your progress. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Should you arrive late, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor after class is over. Excused absences (illness) must be documented and you must notify the instructor in advance (email) if at all possible. Late written work will only count towards your final grade if your absence is excused. Missed tests and quizzes will count as zeroes except in cases of illness. Requests for such arrangements should be made to the instructor. For more than five hours of (unexcused) absence, your course grade will be lowered by one-third of a letter grade for each additional unexcused absence (e.g., from A to A- or B- to C+). Five tardies will result in one unexcused absence.

Homework
You are expected to spend about 1 to 1.5 hours a day on your homework. Written homework exercises will be graded for accuracy, effort, completion, and timeliness. Your homework will receive either a ✔+, ✔, ✔-, or a 0. A ✔+ is equivalent to a 5 and will be given to homework that is completed with very few errors. A ✔ is equivalent to a 4 and will be given to homework that is completed but with many errors. A ✔- is equivalent to a 3 and will be given to homework that is not complete (any one section left undone, for example) or to homework that does not demonstrate genuine effort (the majority of the work is incorrect, or it is clear the student did not try). A 0 will be given to all late homework. When doing your homework, it is important to give your best effort to all sections. Should you do this and still make a lot of mistakes, the lowest grade you will get is a ✔.
Your performance on oral assignments (short presentations, dialogues, poem reciting, etc.) will also be evaluated for effort and counted toward your class participation grade. Thorough completion of all assignments is expected, including video viewing and listening comprehension exercises. Note that some reading and writing assignments are longer than others and might require extra time.

Late homework will be accepted, but will receive an automatic 0, unless the absence was excused. NB: You may NOT turn in up to 5 homework assignments without penalty (i.e. 5 0’s will become 5’s). This averages out to be one per unit. Should you turn in all of your homework on time, your 5 lowest grades on homework will become 5’s.

Each Unit is followed by grammar commentary. Read the relevant material for the day before you come to class (in most cases, the necessary reading is assigned as homework for the night before we cover the material in class). In class, we will go over difficult points and focus on practicing/using the grammar in communication. Occasionally, when a grammatical item is particularly complicated, these sections will also be assigned as homework to be read after we have discussed them in class. Please consult these sections as needed during the completion of homework assignments and when studying for tests and quizzes. It is your responsibility to have read and understood all the material found in these sections.

Each unit also has a list of vocabulary after the grammar commentary. At the beginning of each unit, you should make flashcards of all new vocabulary and review them daily. Occasionally, making flashcards will appear in your homework to remind you, but you should not rely on these prompts only. The sooner you make the flashcards, the sooner you will increase your vocabulary, and the better you will perform in class and on tests and quizzes.

NB: At the end of the book are several appendixes for quick consultation on grammar and spelling. There is also a dictionary at the back of the book.

The Blackboard site under Documents has a “Panic Folder” which contains some review materials: spelling rules, meanings of cases, verb inventory etc. There is also a folder called Grammar Charts that contains some reference material to help you review. Please refer to these folders if you need a refresher of last year and for studying case endings and other basic grammatical items. And never hesitate to ask questions!

Writing Assignments (Essays, News Casts, Dialogues)
All essays, dialogues, and presentations should be computer-typed and double-spaced. Essay topics, due dates and the length of each essay will be listed in weekly syllabi. Essay drafts (for longer essays) will be returned by the instructor with the errors marked but not corrected (by looking up the correct answer
yourself, you will reinforce your knowledge and understanding). Students are expected to correct the errors and re-submit the essays for the grade on the dates specified in the weekly syllabi. Keep in mind that the assigned length for papers is indicated with a typed essay in mind. Your paragraph-long essay should be about 100 words long. A one-page essay should be about 200-250 words.

You need to type your essays in Russian on your computer. If you do not have a Russian phonetic keyboard you will need to install it. To install the Russian (transliterated) keyboard follow the link: http://mxblum.people.wm.edu/tech_notes1/ruskbd.php

The use of translation software to complete any assignment is prohibited. Any use of such software will result in a zero for that assignment, as well as its rewriting and resubmission.

**Film Project**

Beginning with the introductory unit, students will work in pairs and/or small groups to write and perform scenes that will make up a larger story. Each unit, you and your group will add to the previous unit’s story. By the end of the semester, the goal is to have created a short film (12-20 minutes in length) that offers a coherent and interesting story line. As a group, you will be in control of your story (I will help provide rough outlines that you can follow) and creativity is strongly encouraged. Each unit, the scene or scenes you create must include as much grammar and vocabulary from that unit (and previous ones) as possible, and the general plot will follow something similar to the plot of that unit’s video clips. However, the direction of your film is largely dependent on you and your group. As long as you consistently use the vocabulary and grammar from each unit, you may take your film in almost any direction.

You will be graded on a variety of points, including proper grammar, pronunciation, and intonation; use of that unit’s vocabulary and grammar; and rate of speech, among other things. The presentation grade will be made up of a variety of different parts: a first written draft of the scene, a corrected written draft of the scene, and the actual oral performance. A full explanation of what your grade will be based on will be made available to you prior to the first unit’s scene, and due dates for each part will be included in each unit’s syllabus. I will work as the camera man and video tape each group’s scenes. I will then post these to the W&M Russian YouTube page. Students will be required to watch all of their fellow classmates’ work and write a half-page summary in Russian of ONE of the episodes. This summary will be turned in a few days after the new unit has begun (see each unit’s syllabus for the specific date). At the end of the semester, your short films will be judged by the other Russian faculty, and awards will be given out for “best film.” **NB:** this judging will not impact your final grade on the project.

**Oral Presentations**
Over the course of the semester, you will participate in a variety of oral presentations, drills, and exercises. Some will be performed in front of the class individually and in groups, and others will be performed in small groups at your desks. You will be expected to be ready to participate in all oral exercises. These will be graded on successful completion, enthusiasm, and effort, and will factor into your participation grade.

**Participation**

The emphasis of this course is on proper communication. You are expected to come to class fully prepared (having written, read, listened to, memorized the assigned material, etc.) and ready to use this material for analysis and discussion. You cannot learn a language without putting it into use. Everyone will be expected to participate fully and equally over the course of the semester.

**NB:** Do not miss class because you did not do your homework: you are graded both on attendance and homework. Missing homework *and* class will double the problem.

**Quizzes, Tests, and Exams**

The course includes regular quizzes (vocabulary and grammar), and written tests (unit tests) after every unit. Written unit tests will consist of listening and reading comprehension tasks, fill-in-the-blanks, translation passages, and/or short essays. A final written examination will cover all of the material presented in the course. The format of the final exam will be like that of the unit test, but the final will be comprehensive. Students will be expected to produce grammatically correct Russian (proper spelling, declension, conjugation, etc.) and the quizzes and tests will be graded accordingly. The goal of this course is to help you improve your ability to communicate in **correct, educated** Russian.

**Oral Proficiency Goals and Testing**

You are REQUIRED to participate in the exit oral proficiency testing (OPI—Oral Proficiency Interview), which is a part of your language course experience. OPIs will take place the final two days of classes (regular class will be canceled). After completion of RUSN 201 students are expected to have reached Intermediate Low level in Oral Proficiency.

**Cultural Component**

In addition to language instruction, Russian section and the Russian House offer a variety of co-curricular activities: Russian tea, films, games, parties, etc. Don’t miss these!!! This is a great (and painless 😊) way to get invaluable language practice and knowledge of Russian culture, as well as to meet new friends! Please contact **Victoria Kim**, our resident Russian tutor (vkim@wm.edu), for additional information.

**NB:** Please note that your participation in the Russian Tea (at least five times during this semester) counts as 5% of your final grade. If you are unable to attend tea, it is your responsibility to make other arrangements AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE. Both Victoria and I are flexible in the ways we can help students fulfill this requirement, but ONLY IF you talk to us early in the semester.

One day of most units will be devoted to something cultural. Thus, in the Introductory Unit, we will spend a day discussing Pushkin. There will be homework assigned (reading, memorization, etc.) for these days and you are expected to complete it like any other homework assignment. The point of this is to give everyone a break from the textbook, while learning about something uniquely and fundamentally Russian, thereby increasing your cultural fluency, along with your language.

Extra Credit
You should take advantage of other cultural events scheduled during the semester, such as film screenings and lectures. Subscribe to https://lists.wm.edu/wws/subscribe/russian-l for announcements. In September there will be a film series. Over the course of the semester, there will also be a number of guest lectures. Dates and times are TBA. For every one of these events you attend, one homework grade will be changed to a 5 (canceling a late HW, or changing a 3 to a 5).

NB: Should you turn in all of your homework on time AND should you attend all the film screenings and all of the guest lectures, your lowest test grade will be raised by a letter grade (from C to B, B- to A-, etc.).

Special Needs
Students with special learning needs are asked to discuss them with the instructors at their earliest convenience. We are committed to providing instruction to all learners regardless of any disability.

Daily Schedule
Classes will meet Monday through Friday. You will get a general (course) syllabus at the beginning of the course and more detailed syllabi every new unit (made available on Blackboard). Instructors reserve the right to introduce minor changes into the general syllabus by adjusting it to the class progress.

Overview of the Course (dates are tentative)

Вводный Урок / Introductory Unit
August 29 – September 19
Introduction to the course
Grammar and Vocabulary Review
Self, education, languages

Урок 1 / Unit 1
September 20 – October 5
Communicative Content: Personal info, marriage, and family
Grammar Topics: Review cases and conjugation

Урок 2
October 8 – October 24
Communicative Content: Health; talking on the phone
Grammar Topics: Aspect and time expressions

Fall Break October 15-16 (no classes)

Урок 3
October 25 – November 12
Communicative Content: Travel, free time, and hobbies
Grammar Topics: Verbs of Motion (unprefixed)

Урок 4
November 13 – December 4
Communicative Content: Finding your way in a city
Grammar Topics: Verbs of Motion (prefixed)

Thanksgiving Break November 21-23 (no classes)

December 5th: Review for final exam
December 6th-7th: Exit Testing (OPI Interviews)
Final Exam: December 11th, 2:00 – 5:00 pm